GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4277
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2016
Safety of Workers
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai;Mahajan Smt. Poonam ;Ram Shri Janak;Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the number of fatal accidents and casualties occurred in various companies/factories/industrial units including mines in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT- wise;
(b)the number of cases investigated along with the nature of irregularities detected during the said period, year-wise and State/UT-wise;
(c)the number of cases registered against the companies/persons for violation of various norms including mines safety norms along with the action taken against the guilty during the above period, year-wise, State/UT-wise;
(d)whether the Government has conducted any study regarding
occupational diseases like Silicosis in workplaces and if so, the details thereof along with the rehabilitation and compensation provided to the affected workers, State/UT-wise; and
(e)whether the Government has taken initiatives towards the prevention and creating awareness of Silicosis in workers and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): The number of fatal & non-fatal injuries in major ports covered under the Dock workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1986 and Regulations, 1990 & the information on the number of fatal accidents and casualties occurred in respect of major ports for the year 2013, 2014, 2015 and current year is appended at Annexure - I.
The information on number of fatal & non-fatal injuries in factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948 are collected through the office of Chief Inspector of Factories of respective States/UTs for the year 2013, 2014 & 2015 are appended at Annexure - II.
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The information on fatal accidents and casualties occurred in mines in the country during last the last three years and the current year is appended at Annexure III & IV.
(b) & (c): The Factories Act, 1948 and the State Factories Rules framed there under are enforced by the respective State/UTs and the State/UTs are empowered to carryout investigations/inspections for enforcement of the provisions of the Act and the Rules. Hence, the information may be available with the respective State Government.

Further, there are penal provisions under the Act, for violation of any of the provisions of the Act or the Rules framed thereunder and as per the information collected through correspondence with the CIFs of the States/UTs the number of prosecutions and convection for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 are appended as Annexure at V.

The Dock Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1986 and Regulations, 1990 are enforced by Ministry of Labour & Employment (DGFASLI) through Inspectorate of Dock Safety Offices in the major ports.

There are provisions for investigation of accidents, dangerous occurrences and occupational diseases. The Act has penal provisions for violation of any provisions of the Act and Regulations. The information in respect of major ports for the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and current year is appended as Annexure -VI.

All the cases related to fatal accidents in mines were investigated and registered. Details are available as per Annexure at III & IV above.

(d): National/State Level Studies on Occupational Diseases due to work related exposure has been conducted. At present, as per the directives of the Hon"ble Supreme Court National Study has been undertaken in severally affected states. The details of the studies on occupational diseases are appended at Annexure - VII.
To address the silicosis related health issues of stone mines and quarry workers of unorganised sector situated in different part of the countries, a project on "Multicentric Dust Related Disease in Stone Mines and Development of Sustainable Preventive Programme" has been undertaken jointly by Ministry of Labour & Employment and Ministry of Mines in collaboration with National Institute of Miner's Health (NIMH) (An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Mines).
NIMH has already undertaken the study during the financial year 2015-16 in Nalgonda district of Telangana state and Jodhpur & Dholpur districts of Rajasthan State. During the financial year 2016-17, further study shall also be undertaken in other districts having unorganized mines.
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The subject of compensation provided to the affected mine workers is beyond the purview of Mines Act, 1952 and respective mine managements provide compensation/relief which is covered under the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923.

(e): Yes, the government has taken initiatives towards the prevention and creating awareness of Silicosis in workers.

The Factories Act, 1948 is the principal legislation for regulating various aspects relating to safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories including factories using silica. This Act is a Central Enactment, which aims at protecting workers employed in factories from industrial and occupational hazards. The Statutes stipulate a systems approach to identify, assess and prevent hazards at the workplace, so as to reduce industrial injuries and occupational diseases.

Also the Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, has declared the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Workplace (NPSHEW) with the purpose to establish a preventive safety and health culture in the country through elimination of the incidents of work related injuries, diseases, fatalities, disasters and to enhance the well being of employees in all the sectors of economic activity in the country.

A dedicated awareness center on asbestos and silica has been developed at Regional Labour Institute Faridabad for creating awareness and educating the stake holders on hazards associated and prevention in the use, handling, processing and exposure of silica and asbestos.

Under the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, the Government made the following statutory provisions to check and prevent occupational diseases of persons employed in mines:
(i) Initial Medical Examinations of persons to be employed in mines and Periodical Medical Examinations of persons already employed in mines at an interval of 5 years.
(ii) Engineering control measures on prevention and generation of air-borne dust at workplace are also made under Regulation 123 of the Coal Mines Regulation, 1957 and Regulation 124 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961. Measures to be taken are-

? Wet drilling
? The 8-hrs time weighted average permissible limits for airborne respirable dust as determined by use of approved dust sampling instruments and procedures laid down are:
Contd..4/-

? 1 fibres per milliliter of air in case of asbestos.
? 5 milligrams per cubic metre of air in case of manganese ore.
? 3 milligrams per cubic metre of air; where the working is being made wholly in coal seam or where free respirable silica content in respirable dust is less than 5%.
? In other cases where free respirable silica content in respirable dust is more than 5 percent, the permissible limit shall be calculated by the formula, 15% of free silica in milligrams per cubic metre of air.
? Periodic monitoring of dust levels at workplace.
? Personal Dust Exposure profile using Personal Dust Samplers.
? Use of Dust mask and Dust respirator as Personal Protective Equipment when liberation of dust below respirable limit cannot be controlled.

It is the duty of the mine management to comply with the above provisions in their respective mines.
Other steps taken:
1.0 Awareness camps with the help of State Government is being organized to bring awareness among the mine owners and mine workers about Silicosis and measures available for protection against Silicosis including the use of protective gear.

2.0 Special drive on implementation of statutory provisions regarding dust in small metal mines has been undertaken by this Directorate. In case of serious / repeated violation Prohibitory orders have been imposed under Section 22A (2) of the Mines Act, 1952 in 847 mines. The matter is being followed up to its logical conclusion as per the statute.

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